

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15

STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 NRC-05 CEQ-01 /127 W

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R 231815Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WASHDC

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY GERMANTOWN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1551

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL GENOA

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DOE FOR R.E. ROBERTSON (IA/IP) AND LLOYD HERWIG (ET/SE)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BENG, IT, BEXP

SUBJECT: BILATERAL U.S. - ITALY ENERGY COOPERATION

REF: (A) ROME 4508; (B) ROME 4794; (C) ROME 1728

1. SCIATT HAS RECEIVED INFORMALLY FROM SIMONI (MFA OFFICIAL WHO HANDLES TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF U.S.-ITALY ENERGY COOPERATION) A DOCUMENT ON QTE ITALIAN PROPOSALS IN THE FIELD OF THERMAL AND PHOTOELECTRIC CONVERSION OF SOLAR ENERGY UNQTE THE MAIN TEXT OF WHICH IS QUOTED BELOW. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE RECEIVED TWO OF THE THREEE PROPOSED QTE TASK-SHARING UNQTE PROJECTS CITED IN SECTION E OF THE ITALIAN DOCUMENT, COPIES OF THESE PROPOSALS ARE BEING POUCHED. ITALIAN PROPOSALS ARE STILL UNOFFICIAL, BUT THEY ARE ALREADY QTE IN THE PIPE UNQTE FOR OFFICIAL TRANSMISSION AND CAN THEREFORE BE USED WITHOUT FEAR OF MAJOR REVISIONS BEFORE THE CONSULTATIONS WITH SIMONI DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 3.

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2. TEXT OF DOCUMENT:

QUTE. AS AGREED IN THE MEETING HELD IN ROME ON JANUARY 1978 THIS DOCUMENT SUMMARIZES THE ITALIAN PROPOSALS FOR POSSIBLE COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELDS OF SOLAR THERMAL ELECTRIC AND PHOTO-VOLTAIC CONVERSION.

THE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN DIVIDED IN FIVE DIFFERENT SECTORS

AS FOLLOWS:

- A) EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION;
- B) VISITS OF ITALIAN EXPERTS TO U.S. INDUSTRIES, RESEARCH CENTERS, ETC.;
- C) EXCHANGE OF SCIENTISTS;
- D) USE OF U.S. EXPERIMENTAL FACILITIES;
- E) DEVELOPING OF RESEARCH PROJECTS ON A QTE TASK-SHARING UNQTE BASIS.

A) EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

IN THIS FIELD IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL TO DISCUSS ANY MECHANISM TO IMPROVE A TIMELY DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF U.S. R, D AND D ACTIVITIES.

THE MOST INTERESTING AREAS FROM THE ITALIAN POINT OF VIEW ARE:

- 1. THERMAL ELECTRIC
 - 1.1. SITING FOR SOLAR ELECTRIC PLANT;
 - 1.2. METHODOLOGY AND OPTIMIZATION OF MIRROR FIELD DISTRIBUTION;
 - 1.3 MIRROR FIELD MAINTENANCE;
 - 1.4 MIXING OF SOLAR ENERGY WITH CONVENTIONAL SOURCES;
 - 1.5 OPTIMIZATION CRITERIA OF THERMAL CYCLES (FLUIDS AND CYCLES CHARACTERISTICS).
- 2. PHOTOVOLTAIC CONVERSION
 - 2.1 TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT OF PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPMENT;
 - 2.2. ACTIVITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIFFERENT PHOTOVOLTAIC CELLS AND EXPECTED RESULTS;
 - 2.3 RESULTS OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES ON PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUTONOMOUS PRODUCTION AND GRID-CONNECTION;
2.4 SUN TRACKER FOR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS.

B) VISITS

A FEW ITALIAN INDUSTRIES AND UNIVERSITIES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR INTERESTS FOR SHORT VISITS (2-3 DAYS) TO THE FOLLOWING LABS AND EXPERIMENTAL FACILITIES:

- 1.1 SANDIA, ALBUQUERQUE
- 1.2 SANIA, LIVERMORE
- 1.3 JPL, PASADENA
- 1.4 NASA, LEWIS RESEARCH CENTER
- 1.5 SERI
- 1.6 10 KW PUMPING STATION IN NEBRASKA

C) EXCHANGE OF SCIENTISTS

DIFFERENT ITALIAN INSTITUTIONS HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST TO SEND EXPERTS FOR PERIODS OF AT LEAST SIX MONTHS TO THE PREVIOUS LABORATORIES. IT IS SUGGESTED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER DURING THE PROPOSED VISITS.

D) USE OF U.S. EXPERIMENTAL FACILITIES

AS ABOVE IT IS A MATTER TO DISCUSS DURING THE VISITS.

E) TASK-SHARING PROJECTS

- 1.1. GALILEO S.P.A. IS READY TO SUBMIT TO U.S. IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS A NEW OPTICAL DESIGN OF FRESNEL LENS FOR CON-

CENTRATOR COLLECTOR THAT COULD BE TESTED IN U.S. FACILITIES.

1.2. MONTEDISON HAS SUBMITTED THREE DIFFERENT PROJECTS
WITH THE ENCLOSED DOCUMENT.

1.3. UNIVERSITY OF CALABRIA HAS ALSO SUBMITTED
DIFFERENT PROPOSALS IN THE ENCLOSED LETTER. UNQTE.

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3. COMMENT: WHILE THESE ITALIAN PROPOSALS ARE A FIRST STEP
TOWARD A BETTER DEFINITION OF POSSIBLE BILATERAL COOPERATIVE
ACTIVITY, WE BELIEVE THERE IS A GREAT DEAL MORE WORK TO BE DONE.
WE WOULD NOTE IN THIS CONNECTION THAT SIMONI HAS BEEN WORKING
WITH TWO IMPORTANT HANDICAPS IN PREPARING THESE PROPOSALS: A)
HE HAS BEEN WITHOUT A BOSS IN THE MFA BETWEEN MIGLIUOLO'S DEPART-
TURE IN EARLY JANUARY AND RAMASSO'S APPOINTMENT EARLIER THIS
MONTH; B) OUR COOL RESPONSE TO THE JANUARY 25 CONSULTATIONS
ON SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES HAS MADE MANY OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED
DOUBTFUL OF OUR INTEREST IN BILATERAL COOPERATION. IT WILL TAKE
SOME TIME TO WARM UP ITALIAN INDUSTRY INTEREST AGAIN.

4. SO FAR AS THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ARE CONCERNED, WE
WOULD MAKE A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS. ON INFORMATION EXCHANGE,
WE WOULD SUGGEST (AS INRETEL (A)) SENDING THE ITALIANS ALL OUR
DOE SOLAR PUBLICATIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIRS, PROVIDED THAT
THEY ARE WILLING TO ESTABLISH AN ADEQUATE DEPOSITORY FOR THIS
MATERIAL. THIS ISSUE COULD BE RAISED WITH SIMONI IN APRIL. ON

VISITS, WE WOULD SUGGEST ASKING SIMONI TO NAME PEOPLE AND THE DATES
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THEY CAN TRAVEL TO THE PLACES SUGGESTED, BUT WE
WOULD HOPE DOE ALSO WOULD BE THINKING ABOUT SETTING UP AN
ESTABLISHED PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING ITALIAN VISITORS, AT THE SAME
TIME ASKING SIMONI TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES ON THE ITALIAN SIDE.
MUCH THE SAME GOES FOR LONGER STAYS.

5. WE ARE MOST DISAPPOINTED IN THE SUGGESTIONS FOR QTE TASK-
SHARING UNQTE PROJECTS. THESE HAVE SIMPLY BEEN TRANSMITTED
INTACT FROM THOSE WHO SUGGESTED THEM TO SIMONI, WITHOUT ANY
EFFORT TO THINK THROUGH COORDINATED PROJECTS INVOLVING SEVERAL
PARTIES WITHIN ITALY. MISSION WOULD SUGGEST THAT DOE INDICATE
TO SIMONI THAT THE U.S. MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PROVIDING
ASSISTANCE IN DESIGNING AND EXECUTING ONE OR TWO MAJOR PROJECTS,
SUCH AS A SOLAR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT IN THE MEZZOGIORNO PRO-
VIDED THE ITALIANS WOULD COME FORWARD WITH A DETAILED PROPOSAL
WHOSE CONSTRUCTION COSTS WOULD BE PAID FOR BY ITALY.

6. ANOTHER WEAK POINT IN THE ITALIAN PROPOSALS IS THE LACK OF
ATTENTION TO COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES. ENERGY PRICES, ESPECIALLY
THE PRICES OF HOME HEATING FUELS, ARE HIGH IN ITALY, AND ELECTRICITY
PRICES ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE SHARPLY DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.
IT IS OFTEN SAID HERE THAT A HOMEOWNER COULD BREAK EVEN ON A
SOLAR HOT WATER HEATER RELATIVE TO AN ELECTRICAL ONE (THE MOST
COMMON TYPE) WITHIN FOUR OR FIVE YEARS. YET FOR MANY FAMILIAR
REASONS, SOLAR HOT WATER HEATERS ARE VIRTUALLY NONEXISTENT. WE
BELIEVE U.S. COMPANIES COULD BENEFIT FROM THE UNTAPPED MARKET IN
ITALY VIA JOINT VENTURES OR LICENSING ITALIAN FIRMS. WE HAVE
REPORTED ONE RECENT FOREIGN BUYER OPPORTUNITY (ROME 5324) , WE
EXPECT A SIMILAR INQUIRY IN THE NEAR FUTURE FROM FIAT, AND WE
WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE U.S. COMMERCIAL PARTICIPATION IN THE GENOA
SOLAR ENERGY FAIR (GENOA 0092). ANY DOE OR USDOC SUPPORT FOR THESE
INITIATIVES OR OTHER SUGGESTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. IN
ADDITION, WE THINK DOE MIGHT SUGGEST TO SIMONI INCLUDING SOME
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COMMERICALLY ORIENTED PEOPLE AMONG THE ITALIAN VISITORS TO THE
U.S. GARDNER

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